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U. S. Department of Agriculture

TIMELY TOPICS  
ON  
SOIL EROSION

U.S. 36

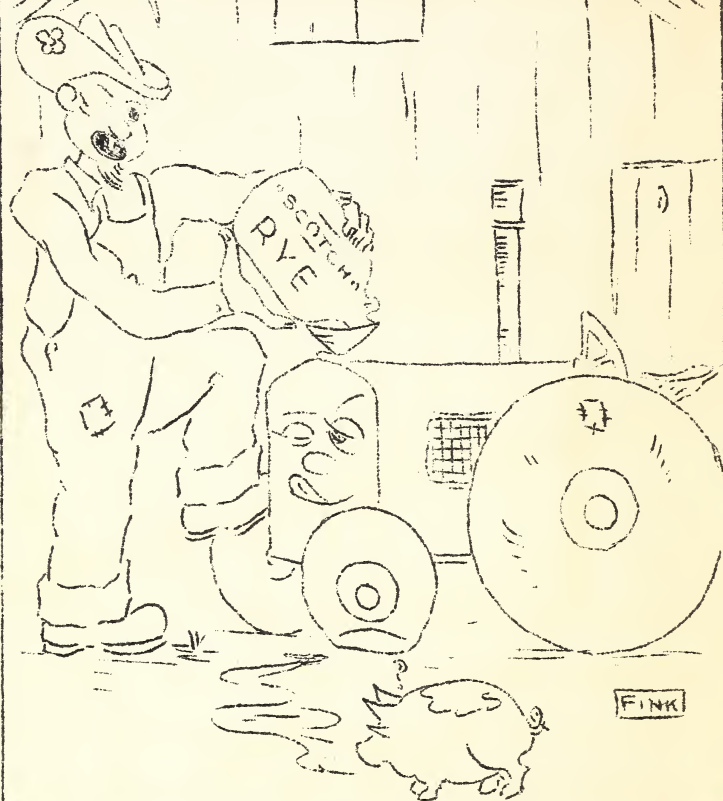
KANSAS SOIL EROSION SERVICE  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Limestone Creek Area

Boundary of Area

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Mankato, Kansas,  
May 19, 1934.

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It is the plan of the Soil Erosion Service to send out these little news letters and timely hints from time to time to those who are cooperating with us. We hope they may be of interest and assist in keeping you in closer touch with us and the Soil Erosion program.

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#### SCOPE OF WORK

As you no doubt know, the Limestone Area comprises a total of nearly 200 square miles or about 125,000 acres. Of this area, approximately 40% was in corn last year, 26% in small grain, 24% in pasture and 10% in other crops. Out of a total of 450 farms the agronomists and farm management men have made farm plans for approximately 260 farms. Engineering work has been completed on 65 farms which protects approximately 5,000 acres.

#### CONTOUR FARMING

In addition to the engineering jobs, we can now see some of the farming practices showing up. Oats and sweet clover drilled in alternate rows are now

coming up on the farms of J. E. Green, Roy Phillips, Evart White, R. A. Lorence and many others. Contour listing has been started on the farms of Meyer Miles, Ray Lorence, Glen Kindler, Roy Phillips, Sam McCleery and several others. If you need any assistance in starting your contour listing, we will be very glad to help you.

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#### CONTOUR PASTURE

Pastures on the farms of Loren Vandeventer and M. Shelton have been contour furrowed. This method of controlling runoff in pastures is in the experimental stage in this area but has proven its worth in other parts of the country.

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#### CROPPING SYSTEMS

Cropping systems including sod crops, small grains and row crops planted on the contour form one of the first steps to be taken in the control of erosion. Sod is the most effective type of crop in preventing runoff and erosion. The small grains are next, and the row crops least effect-

tive. Their efficiency can be greatly increased by planting the rows across the slope.

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### CONTOUR FIELD LINES

Since terraces are becoming common in the Soil Erosion area, contour field boundary lines are also becoming common. This practice is making the figuring of field areas a bit more difficult, especially when the areas have to be computed for corn-hog or wheat contracted acres.

As these contracted acreages are laid off, a rough computation of the area is made in the field, sufficient to give the farmer an idea of his acreage. The notes are taken to the Erosion office and a large scale map drawn of the area. Then by the use of a small instrument known as a planimeter, the exact acreage down to hundredths of an acre is quickly calculated.

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### PASTURE IMPROVEMENT

Between 5 and 10 per cent of the cultivated land in the Limestone Creek Area should be put back

to grass if a satisfactory grass were available. In order to determine which of the grasses is best adapted to this area, demonstrational plots have been located on the George Shook farm in Esbon township, Ira L. White farm in Center township and on the John Dietz farm in Odessa township. Grasses included in these plots are Brome Grass, Crested Wheat Grass, Meadow Fox Tail, Reed's Canary Grass, Buffalo Sod, Western Wheat Grass, Ladak Alfalfa and several varieties of Lespedeza. We invite you to watch these plots from time to time and see the results obtained.

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#### TREES

The Ercsion Service has planted approximately 20,000 trees in draws and on steep slopes to assist in controlling erosion. These trees include Osage Orange, Black Locust, Cottonwood, Green Ash, Wild Plums and Brush Cherries.

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#### TERRACING

We will be working on summer fallow land for

the next month. Our plans are to complete the terracing on all the summer fallow land before fall seeding. We have two elevating graders and several blade graders doing the construction work. One elevating grader will construct approximately three miles of terraces a day.

#### WORK OF C. C. C. MEN

The field work of the C. C. C. men in camp near Esbon has been turned over to the Soil Erosion Service. These men are employed at present in the completion of terrace systems. Their work consists of fills on terrace lines, fills at terrace outlets, spillway checks, outlet checks, brush dams and tree planting, and replacement of fences. This work will aid greatly in the completion of our Soil Erosion Control plans.

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THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE is for your benefit and your erosion problems are our problems. Stop in and see us when in Mankato. Office opposite the Correll Hotel.

F. L. Duley,  
Regional Director.

